

The Arlington Advocate



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Remembering the legacy of Dr. King

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The spirit of volunteerism and racial harmony were evident during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Monday at the First Baptist Church in Arlington.

On a night full of laughter, tears, and reflection, The Honorable Marjory A. German gave a wide-ranging speech, where she asked the packed church to give back.

"Every one of us can do something," German told the overflowing crowd. "One person can make a difference. A group of people can work a miracle."

Judge German, who is an Arlington resident, serves in the Suffolk County Juvenile Court. She was also the attorney in charge of the Roxbury Defenders for more than five years. She has taught classes in black history in the Arlington schools and participated in forums in the Boston schools.

Following Coretta Scott King's lead, German said there are many ways for individuals to

■ SEE KING, PAGE 10



STAFF PHOTOS BY TYSON TRISH

Arlington resident The Honorable Marjory German was the featured speaker at Monday's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance.

Bonn, Cremens-Basbas honored for their work

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER



The Arlington public schools were well-represented at Monday's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance at the First Baptist Church in Arlington. Above, Pasquale Tassone, director of the schools' visual and performing arts, leads the Arlington High School Honors Orchestra and The Madrigal Singers as they premier "Pieces of Dreams," which highlighted King's life and vision.

On a night when subzero temperatures chilled the air, representatives from the Arlington public schools warmed the hearts of those who attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Monday.

The schools were well-represented, not only in the audience, but on the stage as Kate Cremens-Basbas and Judi Bohn were recognized for their work and the Arlington High School performing arts department premiered a piece honoring King.

Cremens-Basbas is chairperson of the Department of Physical Education and Health for the Arlington schools and her work has made strides to help minori-

ties at the high school. According to last year's Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Award winner Natalie Gill, Cremens-Basbas "basically made the African Dance Program happen... and volunteered to coordinate rehearsals for the first annual Black History Assembly."

Cremens-Basbas is also co-advisor to the AHS student newspaper, coordinates assemblies about racism, dating violence, domestic violence, and homophobia, is the advisor and co-founder of the Gay/Straight Alliance, the largest GSA in the state, and leads workshops on gender and multicultural fairness for academic professionals.

After accepting one of this

■ SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

Owner surveying 16-acre parcel bordering Rte. 2

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

There were grand plans for the land.

At one point, it was to be a commercial-residential megaplex, with three towers and more than 600 apartments, on a 16-acre plot at the southeast corner of Arlington.

Now it appears that the so-called Mugar land might be in play for development, and East Arlington neighbors want a say in the way the private land is developed, or not developed, as many seem to prefer.

The parcel in question has been owned by the Boston development firm of Mugar Enterprises

for more than 40 years. The land, according to Assistant Town Planner Kevin O'Brien, is the largest single piece of undeveloped land in town. It is bordered by Route 2, Thorndike Field, and neighborhoods on Mott, Parker, Burch, Edith and Margaret streets and Dorothy Road. The zoning on the property allows many construction options, including apartments, office space or a retail business.

The land has recently been marked and surveyed, sparking the interest of neighbors and residents who have been watching that property for years. Construction on the site is opposed by those who say development

■ SEE MUGAR, PAGE 12

Board, neighbors concerned about Pleasant St. plan

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

How close is too close for this old house?

The Wyman-Parker House, 105 Pleasant St., went up almost 120 years ago and gets its name from its builder, Charles Wyman, and an association with Charles Symmes Parker, another town luminary from the last century. Dr. Otto Nau, a local pediatrician, was the previous owner of the house. Nau recently retired and sold the home for \$500,000 to developer Michael Collins, also an Arlington resident.

Collins has presented a plan to

the town's Historic District Commission in which he has subdivided the lot into two parcels. In his application, he outlines a plan to refurbish the Wyman-Parker House and build a new two-story, two-family house in front of it. The unofficial reception, from both the HDC and the neighbors, has been cool.

"This is the first time that I've approached the HDC and had a fundamental disagreement about the [authority] of the commission," he said.

The Wyman-Parker House sits within the Pleasant Street Historic District, established by Town

■ SEE PLEASANT STREET, PAGE 11

Publisher's note

In response to suggestions from our readers and advertisers, we have increased the point size and changed the type font in our classified advertising section to make our advertisements easier to read. We increased from 6 to 7 point and now use the Helvetica type style, a more "readable" print.

Please take a look at the Communityclassifieds.com section in this week's newspaper. We hope you like the change and welcome your comments either by phone, 978-371-5757, or e-mail: gcharter@cnc.com.

— Gareth Charter

INSIDE

communityclassifieds.com

Q. Do first time buyers receive a lower rate on their mortgage?
A. See Ask the Experts in this week's Communityclassifieds.com section.

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Fire officials: Bartlett Avenue blaze started by pipe heater

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Arlington firefighters responded to two major house fires in the past week, one Tuesday and one Sunday.

Firefighters were called Tuesday afternoon for a house fire at 39 Bartlett Ave., where Benjamin Rudnick, 38, and Diane Gordon, 40, reside.

According to the police report, the blaze began with a heat gun, used to unfreeze second-floor bathroom water pipes. A plumber, called in by the owners, had apparently left the operating heater upstairs to speak with the owner on the first floor. The fire was discovered when the plumber returned to the bathroom. In the police report, a small patch of open flame was put out by Rudnick and the worker, who then called the fire department when smoke continued to billow from the wall.

The first crews arrived within three minutes. Soon, Arlington's entire six-truck shift was on the scene, plus fire companies from Belmont, Medford, Somerville and Winchester. For a while, they worked from inside.

"All companies encountered heavy fire in the attic entrance," said Maimone.

Concerns about a failing roof prompted

the department to call all of its people out of the house and fight the fire from the ground and ladder trucks.

Maimone said there were two explosions during the blaze, possibly "flash-overs" in which a mass of flammable material ignites at once into a ball of fire.

Firefighters cleared the scene at 6:18 p.m., after more than four hours of firefighting and hunting down hot-spots. The fire department posted an all-night watch on the house with lingering hot-spots in mind. An engine was called in Wednesday morning to put down a smoldering area in the attic.

There were no civilian injuries. Maimone said there were three minor injuries among his firefighters, including numb fingers and a lieutenant who slipped on the ice. Nobody required a trip to the hospital. The chief praised the town's Department of Public Works crews for sanding the fire scene and bringing in extra gloves for the wet hands of his crews.

"It's hard fighting fires anyway, and when you have to put up with the extreme cold, it makes it that much more difficult," he said.

Even though the structure is still in place, the home appears to be a total loss, with dam-

■ SEE FIRE, PAGE 12



STAFF PHOTOS BY MARC VASCONELLOS

Above, Arlington firefighters battle the Bartlett Avenue blaze. Right, homeowners Benjamin Rudnick and Diane Gordon watch as firefighters work on the structure.

FOR THE RECORD

FIRE LOG

From the incident reports from Arlington's fire department for the week of Jan. 10-17. During that period, the department responded to 125 calls, including 52 rescues, 26 investigations, and 15 fire alarms. References in this digest to "paramedics" denote two-medical teams from Armstrong Ambulance Services, a private Arlington-based ambulance company.

Monday, Jan. 10

- At 7:48 p.m., firefighters and EMTs were sent for a 58-year-old man who fell at his Mary Street house, fracturing his wrist. He was splinted and taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

- At 3:05 a.m., a rescue team was sent to a Melvin Road home for a nine-year-old boy who fell out of bed and complained of

severe neck pain. He was immobilized by rescuers and taken with his mother to Winchester Hospital.

- At 3:45 p.m., firefighters were sent to a driveway of a Sylvia Street residence, for a dump-truck with its trash compartment catch fire. The fire was extinguished in 45 minutes with 300 gallons of water. No apparent damage to the vehicle.

Thursday, Jan. 13

- At 4:49 a.m., rescuers were sent for a two-car accident at the intersection of Overlook Road and Summer Street. A 38-year-old Burlington man, struck from behind, complained of head and back pain. He was taken to Lahey Clinic in Burlington.

- At 7:20 p.m., firefighters and paramedics sent to a Peirce Street residence for a 51-year-old man

who had gotten his right hand caught in a snow-blower. His wound was wrapped, and he was taken by Armstrong paramedics to Lahey Clinic.

Friday, Jan. 14

- At 5:53 p.m., firefighters were sent to the Fox Library, 175 Massachusetts Ave., and found a slight haze in the basement. An extensive investigation found no source for the smoke.

Sunday, Jan. 16

- At 12:43 p.m., firefighters were sent to Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., for steam in hallway closets and coming from the vents. An investigation of the boiler room found steam in several basement rooms. The heating system was shut down, and after the steam cleared, a possibly burst pipe was located. Building maintenance was notified and

responded.

Monday, Jan. 17

- At 9 a.m., rescuers were sent to Richfield Road for a 33-year-old Somerville man who had slipped on ice and reported severe pain in his right knee. The man was outside, unable to move, for 45 minutes, until a neighbor called 9-1-1. The right knee appeared deformed. He was placed in a splint and taken to Lahey Clinic.

- At 10:21 a.m., firefighters and EMTs were sent to Veterans Memorial Skating Rink, 422 Summer St., for a 14-year-old Florida male, who complained of wrist pain. He was a hockey player who had slammed into the boards during a game, and his wrist appeared deformed. With the assistance of a doctor at the scene, his arm was splinted and he was taken to Children's Hospital in Boston.

POLICE LOG

Selections from the Arlington police log for the week of Jan. 10-17:

Monday, Jan. 10

- At 11:07 a.m., police responded to a report of graffiti at Brackett School, 25 Columbia Road, on a rear-lot door. Police noted a name ("Hazel") had been painted in small letters.

- At 1:35 p.m., a motorist parked near Broadway and Cleveland Street reported the theft of a \$40 cell phone.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

- At 9:13 a.m., a woman living on Fremont Street reported an attempted break-in at her home. She pointed out pry marks on first-floor windows, and said there had been three other previous break-in attempts in the past three months that she did not report to police.

Thursday, Jan. 13

- At 2:27 p.m., a resident of Sunnyside Avenue reported the theft of a camera from the home.

- At 4:19 p.m., a woman reported the theft of a wallet from a third-floor office on Academy Street.

- At 8:28 p.m., a woman living on Arizona Terrace reported that she had broken up with an abusive boyfriend, who had left her apartment with her keys. She changed her locks and spent the night at a friend's home. She returned to find that her apartment had been broken into, apparently through the window, and a VCR had been stolen. She also retrieved a message from her answering machine, allegedly from her ex-boyfriend, in which he reportedly laughed and said "... I told you no locks would keep me out." The message was saved and turned over to the police.

Friday, Jan. 14

- At 5:22 a.m., a Wellington Street resident reported the theft of a gray, 1992 Toyota Camry station wagon.

- At 7:43 a.m., a Pond Terrace resident reported that a car had been ransacked and a cell phone stolen. The car had not been locked.

- At 7:49 a.m., a Wellington Street resident reported that an unlocked car had been entered and a wallet containing \$90 stolen.

- At 8:23 a.m., a Pond Lane resident reported a car break-in from a 1996 Dodge and a cell phone stolen.

- At 9:09 a.m., a Wellington Street resident reported a car

Arrests

The following is the arrest log for Arlington's police department for the week of Jan. 11-17.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

- At 12:30 a.m., police arrested Robert J. Morris, 25, of 34 Quincy St. in Medford, after a traffic stop near 1425 Massachusetts Ave. Morris was stopped for driving without tail lights and arrested for allegedly driving with a revoked license. The arresting officer was Officer Doug Cronin.

Friday, Jan. 14

- At 6 p.m., police arrested Mark J. White, 46, of 104 Fremont St. outside his home. The responding officer, acting on a report of a man beating a woman in a car, proceeded to Fremont Street to find White beating his girlfriend in a blue Chevrolet, according to the police report. White was arrested and charged with domestic assault-and-battery and driving with a suspended license. According to the police report, White's girlfriend's face was swollen and bloody, but she refused medical treatment and refused "any and all" further assistance from the police and the courts. The arresting officer was Officer John Fitzpatrick.

break-in from a 1998 Honda. A cell phone and cash were reported stolen.

- At 12:11 p.m., a Pond Terrace resident reported a car (a 1999 Mercury) break-in and a cell phone stolen.

- At 12:11 p.m., a Lincoln Street resident reported a 1997 Volvo had been entered while parked in the driveway. The doors were unlocked, the glove compartment opened, and a cell phone taken.

- At 4:30 p.m., a resident of Wellington Street reported that cell phone, pager, camera, and CDs were taken from an unlocked parked car in her garage.

Saturday, Jan. 15

- At 8:17 p.m., Sweet Chili restaurant reported that a customer, a male in his 50s, left without paying a \$31.60 bill.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Event promotes unity

On Thursday evening, Jan. 27, the Faculty Dining room of Arlington High School will come to life in a new way as members from the high school community come together to share food and celebrate the differences and the unity of the community.

Guest speaker Janice Jackson of Boston College will lead the discussion. "Knowing ourselves so that we may better understand others," Jackson is a specialist in educational leadership and conflict resolution. She is currently on the faculty at Boston College School of Education. Her previous positions include deputy superintendent for Boston Public Schools, and director of the Office for Black Catholics with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Wis.

Members of the high school community, including family and friends, are invited to

come to this potluck dinner and share a dish that serves at least four additional people. The dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the group discussion will begin promptly at 7:45 p.m.

This event is co-sponsored by Arlington High School's Vision 2020 student group, the AHS International Club, Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group, Metco, and Peer Mediation, and is enthusiastically supported by AHS Principal Charles McCarthy and Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Donovan. For more information, to R.S.V.P., or to hear snow cancellation information, please call Charlotte Milan at (781) 646-3738.

Concerts

There will be two concerts given at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 630 Mass. Ave., Arlington Center (the junction of

Mass. Ave. and Rte. 30), Saturday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m.

Y2K might have been a dud, but this concert by 80+ members of the Mystic Chorale will not disappoint. Led by Nick Page, artistic director of the Mystic Chorale, and song leader extraordinaire, the chorale will join voices with our audience to create a real celebration of the New Millennium. This will be the fifth Mystic Chorale 12 Night celebrating both the birth of Jesus and what Nick calls, "The NEW Epiphany"—the affirmation of life conveyed through the new story of creation. Songs will include "Go Tell It On The Mountain," "Children Go Where I Send thee," Ysaye Maria Barnwell's "Your Children", and featuring a new piece by Nick Page, "Gwaza Universe."

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. Seniors/Students \$8.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 20

- The selectmen's citizens' advisory committee for the town manager search meets at 6 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room of the Town Hall annex, 21 Academy St.

- Council on Aging's Finance Subcommittee meets at 6:45 p.m. at Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St. A meeting of the full council will take place immediately thereafter, scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 24

- Finance Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room of Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

- Board of Assessors meets at 7:30 p.m. in the assessors' first-floor office at Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

- Arlington School Committee's Safety Task Force meets at 6:30 p.m. in the committee's sixth-floor hearing room at

Arlington High School, 869 Massachusetts Ave. A meeting of the full committee will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

- Telecommunications Committee meets at 4 p.m. in the first-floor of the Town Hall annex.

- Walking in Arlington, a pedestrian advocacy group, meets at 7:15 p.m. at Arlington Senior Center.

- Debt Exclusion Informa-

tion Meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sons of Italy Hall, 19 Prentiss Road.

Thursday, Jan. 27

- Field and Playground Usage Task Force meets at 7:30 p.m. at Arlington Senior Center.

Monday, Jan. 31

- Board of Selectmen meets at 7:15 p.m. in the board's hearing room on the second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

(USPS 031-900)

HOW TO REACH US

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NEWSROOM

If you have a news story idea, a letter to the editor, obituary, a question about news coverage, or to submit an arts, education or a social news item, contact Les Masterson the editor for The Arlington Advocate.

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E-mail: walter.moynihan@cnc.com

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LEADING PRODUCTIVE LIVES

One of the persistent myths about old age is that the elderly do not "pull their own weight." This misperception is rooted in the belief that a person must have a job with an income to be productive. The fact is that a great many older people have retired from their jobs after having successfully planned for retirement. This, in turn, has afforded them the time to engage in the very productive, but nonpaying, job of volunteer work in both the home and in the community. One-third of older Americans work for pay and one-

third work as volunteers in churches, hospitals, and other organizations. Others provide informal, much-needed assistance to family members, friends, and neighbors.

Staying connected to others and finding a way to give what one has to offer are two ways to help your spirit thrive, no matter what age you are. At LONGMEADOW PLACE BURLINGTON, 42 Mall Road, we urge you to visit us for a tour of our facilities, and find out about our Independent and Assisted living in a residential community. For more information, call (781) 270-9008.

P.S. Those who volunteer their time and energy know the truth in the adage that "it is better to give than to receive."

THIS WEEK on townonline.com

Town Online publishes online 7 days a week at www.townonline.com and America Online Keyword: Town Online. Town Online features news from more than 45 local publications, profiles of more than 200 Eastern Massachusetts communities, and items of regional interest.

TOWN ONLINE POLITICS

Get the latest news on the local and national political front, discuss the issues or e-mail your representative or senator. Town Online has completely redesigned its politics web site to create an interactive look at Massachusetts and national government and the race for the White House. Visit our site at: www.townonline.com/politics.

SEN. JOHN KERRY: TOWN ONLINE NETCAST



Town Online airs the Community Newspaper Co. interview of U.S. Sen. John Kerry. Watch the interview or listen to it with the RealPlayer, available for download off Town Online. Come join in our bulletin board discussion or write a letter to Town Online or to the senator. To see the Kerry interview, go to www.townonline.com/kerry.

GET CONNECTED

Free web sites for local groups are available through the Community Connections program at Community Newspaper Company.

Churches, marching bands and sports teams have used this program to join the World Wide Web.

Interested? Contact Deirdre O'Leary by e-mail at doleary@cnc.com or check out the program at www.townonline.com/community/registration.html

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A SNOW MASTERPIECE



STAFF PHOTO BY LES MASTERSON

The combination of snow and sub-zero temperatures this week was cheered by snowmen makers throughout town. This snowman — or is it a snowwoman? — comes complete with carrot nose and twig arms as the snowperson stands guard of the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum Monday. The talk of more snow and continued frigid temperatures means Arlington will probably be populated by snowpeople for a while.

Three candidates for School Committee

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

One month before the filing deadline, and local elections are starting to take form, with a single contest in the works for one of two spots on the Arlington School Committee.

There will be a race with at least three people for two spots on the School Committee. There are two incumbents: Denis Sullivan, a political-science professor at Northeastern University, and David McKenna, a long-serving member of Arlington's police department. Both have said they intend to campaign for their seats. They are challenged by George Piandes, a real-estate attorney making his second run for the committee in as many years. School Committee terms end after three years.

Last year, Piandes finished fourth out of a field of seven candidates running for three openings on the committee.

Two positions with the Board of Selectmen will be up this year. Both of the incumbent selectmen, Kathleen Kiely Dias and Jack Hurd, have said that they will run for re-election. By Tuesday, no other resident had taken out nomination papers for the board. Selectmen serve three-year terms.

In addition to selectmen and School Committee, there will be elections for positions on the Arlington Housing Authority and the town's Board of Assessors, one position each. The incumbents for both spots, Freeland Abbott for the housing authority and Steven Feeley of the assessors, have taken out papers for re-election.

There are also multiple openings

Candidates for April election

The following residents have taken out nomination papers for the April 1 election.

Board of Selectmen
*Jack Hurd
*Kathleen Kiely Dias

Housing Authority
*Freeland Abbott

School Committee
*Denis Sullivan
*David McKenna
George Piandes

Board of Assessors
*Steven Feeley

*Incumbents

for elected Town Meeting members. With a few exceptions, each of the town's 21 precincts elect four of its 12 Town Meeting members each year to three-year terms. As of Wednesday, with exception of precincts 1 and 14, there are openings for Town Meeting members in every precinct in town. New candidates wishing to run for Town Meeting must gather 10 signatures of registered voters within their precincts to qualify for the ballot.

Incumbents must only notify the clerk that they wish to run again.

Anyone wishing to run for a local elected office must take out nomination papers from the town clerk's office at Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., by the end of the day of Feb. 10. Completed paperwork must be in to the clerk's office by Feb. 14. The clerk's office can be reached at 316-3070.

Town-wide elections will be held this year on April 1.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Arlington Town Hall seeks residents serve as paid election workers for this calendar year.

There are four different job classes to fill. There is a warden, the chief election officer at the polling area who is charged with maintaining an orderly voting process, posting the proper materials, enforcing election laws and preventing interference with the voting process. There is a clerk,

who keeps a record of the proceedings as required by law. There are inspectors, who assist voters with balloting, check their names off the voting rolls as they arrive, and proceed their completed ballots. Then there are relief workers, who fill in as needed throughout a polling day.

Each voting precinct must have a warden, a clerk and four inspectors, plus relief workers as needed.

Arlington is divided into 21 precincts.

The next town election will be held on April 1.

Wardens are paid \$100 a day,

clerks get \$90 and inspectors receive \$80. Relief workers are paid \$7.50 per hour. Interested people should call the Board of Selectmen's office, 316-3020.

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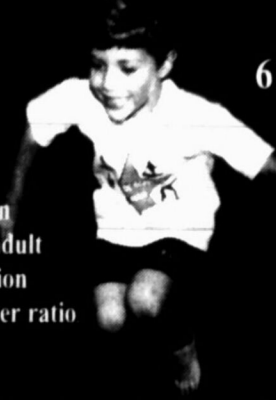
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You can also check out Privacy Journal's web site at
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Resident named publisher

Chuck Goodrich, Community Newspaper Company (CNC) vice president and executive publisher, last week announced the promotion of Gareth Charter to publisher of CNC's Northwest unit, located in Concord.

Charter currently serves as publisher and business development director of CNC's Neponset Valley group based in Sharon, which includes the Neponset Valley Daily News. In his new position, he will have direct responsibility for the 19 local newspapers that fall under CNC's Northwest group, including *The Advocate*. Charter, of Arlington, will also assume responsibilities for the newspaper group's advertising department.



Gareth Charter

"Throughout his five-year tenure with CNC, Gareth has proven to be a highly capable and effective leader within the publishing industry," said Goodrich. "His expertise in local news and strong ties with our communities, have been key reasons for the continued success of our Neponset Valley publications. We welcome him to his new role and continue to look to his outstanding leadership abilities throughout the year."

Charter joined CNC in 1995 as editor-in-chief for what was then known as CNC's Bay State Group. He later became editor, in charge of 18 of CNC's weekly newspapers in the West unit before assuming his most recent role as publisher of the Neponset Valley group. Before joining CNC, Charter was executive editor of *Suburban World Newspapers* in Needham. Charter began his newspaper career with *Suburban Publishing* in Peabody.

Pro-debt exclusion group meeting next week

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

The campaign to fund the reconstruction of four Arlington elementary schools shifts into high gear next week, as volunteers seek voter approval at an April 1 debt-exclusion election.

Supporters of the project have formed a ballot-question committee, Rebuild Arlington's Neighborhood Schools, to allow them to raise money and campaign for passage of the debt exclusion. That committee is chaired by Denis Sullivan, who is also chairman of Arlington's School Committee.

If approved at the polls, the debt exclusion would pay for rebuilding the Peirce,

Dallin, Thompson, and Stratton elementary schools. A special election is needed to exclude the cost of the projects from the state property-tax restrictions. The cost of the four-school package had been previously estimated at \$28 million, but final estimates are still awaited from the town's Permanent Town Building Committee. If approved, construction on the first school, Peirce, would begin in 2001.

Rebuild Arlington's Local Schools kicks off its campaign with a public meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Sons of Italy, 19 Prentiss Road.

Supporters of the debt exclusion have been organizing their campaign since the selectmen called for the election, with vol-

unteers assigned to every precinct in Arlington.

Construction supporters might also receive a boost from an unexpected source, the Arlington Tea Party, a group which organized opposition to previous debt exclusions for the schools. Douglas Howard, who chairs the Arlington Tea Party, said his group might not campaign against this vote if his own review of three previously approved school projects (the Brackett, Bishop and Hardy schools) shows them to be built or building within their approved budgets.

"If that's the case, there may not be any resistance to the [debt exclusion]," he said. "Indeed we may support the [debt exclusion]."

COUNCIL ON AGING NOTES

Free assistance with tax returns

Trained volunteers in the Tax Aide Program are available to help seniors with tax returns from Feb. 8 to April 13. Volunteers will also go to the homes of housebound seniors. Appointments must be made by Wednesday for the following week. Call Susan Isbell at (781) 316-3404, between the hours of 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are available as follows: Monday, 9 a.m. to noon, Fox Library; Tuesday, 1 to 4 p.m., Robbins Library; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon, Robbins Library; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Council on Aging; Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, Robbins Library.

Muscle strengthening class

Muscle strengthening classes begin 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., Friday, Feb. 4 in the Senior Center function room. The class is designed to strengthen muscles and bones, improve balance and prevent osteoporosis. \$3. Call (781) 316-3400 to register.

Podiatry clinic

Podiatrists will provide an examination of the feet, nail cutting, and minor treatment of foot ailments on Monday, Feb. 14.

\$20. Call Marge Garrigan at (781) 316-3400 for an appointment. Appointments are necessary.

Board Meeting

Council on Aging Board Meeting will be held tonight, Jan. 20 on the first floor of the Senior Center in the conference room at 7:15 p.m. Meeting is open to public and all are welcome.

Computer Assistance

The Arlington Seniors Computer Club invites seniors to sign up for computer assistance at the Arlington High School Computer Lab where student volunteers will offer one-on-one learning sessions on the lab's computers. The program is under the direction of Dennis Mercurio and its informal, personalized format has been popular with seniors wishing to learn computing. Students will assist seniors in learning the functions they request, from basic to advanced, answering questions and resolving computing problems. Sessions held Tuesdays, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Feb. 1, 8 and 15. All seniors are welcome to attend this free learning program but registration for all three dates is required. Call Helen Roper at 643-3837 or Lynne

McCluskey at 316-3403 to register or for more information.

Expanded van service

Van transportation is now available for Senior Center activities including podiatry, blood pressure, dental screenings, lunch, seminars and workshops, exercise and social activities. Call COA transportation, (781) 316-3414 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride. Rides cost 75 cents round trip and are payable by ride coupons only. Coupons can be purchased at the COA or send a self-addressed envelope to Arlington Council on Aging, 27 Maple St., Arlington, MA 02476 and mark outer envelope "Vans." Rides are subject to availability. Service is curb-to-curb. Riders must be safety ambulatory or have an assistant. Wheelchairs can be accommodated.

Blood pressure clinics

Blood pressure clinics are held at the following locations (no appointments are necessary):

Millbrook Square, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., first Wednesday of the month;

Fox Library, 175 Mass Ave., 10 to 11:30 a.m., every Tuesday (new time);

COA, 27 Maple St., 12:30 to 2 p.m., every Thursday.

Attorney at the COA

Attorney Noreen Murphy, will be available for a free consultation from 10 a.m. to noon, the second Tuesday of the month to discuss legal issues with seniors. Call (781) 316-3400 for an appointment.

Caregiver support group

A support and networking group, for caregivers who have a loved one suffering from a long-term illness, especially Alzheimer's or other dementing disease, will meet 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Call (781) 316-3400.

Help for Medicare payments

The MassHealth Buy-In Program pays for all or part of the Medicare, Part B premiums. To qualify, monthly income must be below \$947 a month and \$4,000 in assets for a single person or \$1,265 a month and \$6,000 in assets for a couple. A home is not counted for the asset limit. Call Susan Isbell at the COA, (781) 316-3404.

Eating Together menu

Call Barbara Ketlak, (781) 316-3423 for reservations and transportation to the Senior Center luncheon site, 27 Maple St., or Dawn Pepe, (781) 648-7500 for the Drake Village site, Hauser Building, 37 Drake Village Road. Donation of \$1.75 is requested; menus are subject to change.

Monday, Jan. 24: Low sodium hot dog/roll, beans, cole slaw, mixed fruit. ALT: chix patty/bulky roll. Tues., Jan. 25: Corn chowder, BBQ chicken leg, veg., orange; Wed., Jan. 26: Macaroni and cheese, veg., cake; Thurs., Jan. 27: Meatloaf/gravy, veg., choc. pudding, DB pudding. Fri., Jan. 28: Soup, roast turkey/gravy, veg., peaches; DB peaches.

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Depression Study

Dr. Jonathan Cole is conducting a research study at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an extract of St. John's Wort in the treatment of major depression. This study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Individuals who are experiencing depressive symptoms may be eligible for this study.

Symptoms of clinical depression may include:

- Sad, unhappy, empty, or helpless feelings • Sleep problems • Worthless or guilty feelings • Energy decrease, fatigues, or lack of motivation
- Appetite changes • Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities

For more information please contact Emily Rucdominer at (617) 855-2904 or e-mail: DOWNBLUE@mclean.org

LEGAL NOTICES

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM LEGAL NOTICE

THE TOWN OF ARLINGTON'S HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM THROUGH ITS FEDERALLY FUNDED COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY SEEKING INSURED AND LICENSED CONTRACTORS TO BID ON HOME REPAIRS FOR PRE-QUALIFIED ARLINGTON HOME OWNERS. REPAIRS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO GENERAL REPAIRS, ELECTRIC, PLUMBING, CARPENTRY, MASONRY, ROOFING, WINDOW & DOOR INSTALLATION AND HEATING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT.

INTERESTED CONTRACTORS MAY OBTAIN AN APPLICATION AND INFORMATION BY CALLING JANET BARONIAN AT (781) 316-3432. APPLICATIONS MAY BE DELIVERED TO THE ARLINGTON HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM OFFICE AT 20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 202, ARLINGTON, MA 02474.

MINORITY AND FEMALE OWNED BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. ADA/AAE/EOE.

AD#134185
Arlington Advocate 1/20, 1/27, 2/3/00

TRUCK PROPOSAL LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID FOR ONE HEAVY DUTY DUMP TRUCK

The Arlington Housing Authority will accept proposals for one (1) 2000 heavy duty dump truck at the office of the authority, located at 4 Winslow Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474 up to 11:00 AM on February 4, 2000 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained at the office of the Authority. Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes plainly marked on the outside "Proposals for Vehicle."

A certified check or Treasurer's Check made payable to the Arlington Housing Authority in the amount of \$500.00 shall be filed with each proposal. All such checks will be held by the Authority until award of a Contract. Upon failure of the successful bidder to enter into a contract with the Arlington Housing Authority within five days of presentation thereof, his check will be

forfeited to the Authority. No contract will be valid until approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development. The Arlington Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid or waive any informality in the bidding as deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

John Griffin, Chairman
Arlington Housing Authority

AD#133469
Arlington Advocate 1/20, 1/27/00

125 BRATTLE LN. LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ARLINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is herewith given in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.10.e.3 of the Zoning Bylaw that there has been filed by COLONIAL RIDGE LLC of Billerica, Massachusetts on January 13, 2000 an application requesting permission to relocate an existing single family structure and to add an addition thereto on land located at 125 BRATTLE LANE, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS BLOCK PLAN NO. 80-D-1. Said proposal would require a variance under SECTION 6.00 - TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL AND DENSITY REGULATIONS of the Zoning Bylaw for the Town of Arlington.

Hearing in regard to the said petition will be held in the DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ASSEMBLY HALL, SECOND FLOOR, AT 51 GROVE STREET, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ON TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 2000, AT 7:45 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE APPLICANT MAY BE HEARD.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Mary Winstanley O'Connor, Chairperson

AD#135347
Arlington Advocate 1/20, 1/27/00

24 RYDER ST. LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ARLINGTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is herewith given in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.10.e.3 of the Zoning Bylaw that there has been filed by DANTE S. MUZZIOLI of Belmont, Massachusetts on Janu-

ary 13, 2000 an application seeking permission to extend commercial use into a T district on land located at 24 RYDER STREET, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS - BLOCK PLAN NO. 57-A-7-A. Said proposal would require a Special Permit under SECTION 5.04 - TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS (PARAGRAPH 5.10) of the Zoning Bylaw for the Town of Arlington.

Hearing in regard to the said petition will be held in the DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ASSEMBLY HALL, SECOND FLOOR, AT 51 GROVE STREET, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS ON TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 AT 7:45 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE PETITIONER MAY BE HEARD.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Mary Winstanley O'Connor, Chairperson

AD#135421
Arlington Advocate 1/20/00

856 MASS. AVE.

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

The Medford Co-operative Bank, 60 High Street, Medford, MA 02155 has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for consent to establish a branch at 856 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director, Division of Supervision, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 15 Braintree Hill Office Park, Braintree, Massachusetts 02184, before processing the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than 15 days from the date of this notice or 15 days from the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period may be extended by the Regional Director for good cause. The nonconfidential portion of the application file is available for inspection within one day following the request for such file. It may be inspected in the Corporation's Regional Office during regular business hours. Photocopies of information in the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made upon request.

AD#135349
Arlington Advocate 1/20/00

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Millennium speaker looks at new-media revolution Tuesday

BY DAN SHOHL
STAFF WRITER

Cell phones, fax machines and the Internet do not just represent a convenient way to send and organize information, according to Sven Birkerts. The new-media revolution will also fundamentally change the way human beings see and relate to themselves and the world around them.

Birkerts, 48, is a writer, literary critic, teacher and a resident of Arlington. He will deliver a lecture on the consequence of the electronic age at the Town Hall auditorium Tuesday, as part of the Millennium Lecture Series.

His talk is titled "The Guttenberg Elegies," a reference to Birkerts' 1994 essay collection about "the fate of reading in an electronic age." The ongoing revolution in electronic communications spurred him to examine how reading and the power of the printed word would change in the age of the Internet.

Six years later, Birkerts is probing a little bit further into the psychology of the age of virtual reality. What does it mean to a person's sense of oneself and the outside world to be able to summon a zillion electronic pages to a desktop computer, or to instantly send a message to a hundred people around the globe at no cost, or to call home on a satellite phone from the middle of the Gobi Desert?

"I found myself being pulled ever more into looking at the impact of this really fast-breaking wave of computer technologies and innovations," he said Tuesday from his home.

"We are even more going to be living in this utterly polymorphous world of channels, facts and data," he said. "There will be tremendous competition to somehow organize competing world pictures ... as you flounder in the midst of this stuff."

When he wrote "The Guttenberg Elegies," Birkerts envisaged the coming of something like the Rocket eBook, a product of Gemstar International Group. The Rocket eBook is a small, handheld machine with a large display screen that can collect and display the text of dozens of books.

"The Rocket Book is just the front runner, the outrider," he said. "With a few more turns of the technological wheel, it's going to be possible to have most of our reading, most of our knowledge, in a readily portable form."

Portability means more than just convenience, he said. Having a world literally at the fingertips of every man, woman and child requires a new way of thinking about how people relate to one-another and to their own awareness of themselves.

"You could say I'm taking off from that, and doing a little bit of futuristic speculation," he said. "Assuming that it does change [the nature of] reading, what are some of the implications about how we relate to cul-



Arlington resident Sven Birkerts

ture and knowledge?

"I have ideas," he said. "I don't have anything that is at all prescriptive. The tenor of my talk [will be] more diagnostic."

Birkerts' premise is that the gifts of the new media come with a price.

"I don't believe we very simply add something new onto an existing situation," he said. "Every gain has a cost."

"Whatever we gain in speed, we lose in attention. Whatever we gain in public access, we lose in the form of private resonance."

By "private resonance," he means a person's self-understanding. The growing ubiquity and use of electronic information will change that understanding as the world becomes more interrelated and inter-reliant, bounded by a virtual web of flowing electrons.

"I think what we're seeing is a much more dispersed notion of selfhood," he said.

In the next generation, he said, one of the most crucial profession will be the educators, who will help guide growing minds through this unprecedented landscape of information.

"I think things are changing so quickly and the stakes are so high that the really important people in the immediate culture ... would be teachers," he said.

Futurism is not Birkerts' original or primary occupation. He writes a monthly book column for *Esquire* magazine. He teaches writing at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley and at Bennington College in Vermont, as well as pursuing his own writing and speaking projects.

"It's kind of a stew, right now, of almost too many things," he said. "I like them all, I just wish I had more time to devote to all of them."

While he is the third speaker of the Millennium Lecture Series, following author and economist John Kenneth Galbraith and historian and filmmaker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Birkerts will be the first Arlingtonian.

"I settled here exactly 10 years ago, to the month," he said. "I have really grown very, very fond of Arlington."

Birkerts delivers his lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Town Hall auditorium, 730 Massachusetts Ave. Admission is free. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the lecture will be preceded by a musical prelude by pianist Jacqueline Schwab.

The science of making pastries

First met Arlington resident Jenna Brotman last September at the Hotel Meridien. The occasion was a reception celebrating the reopening of the hotel's famous Chocolate Bar buffet.

(If you love chocolate, make a reservation some Saturday afternoon from now until May and indulge in your chocolate fantasies — chocolate crepes, chocolate-dipped strawberries, chocolate ravioli, and chocolate cake, to name a few. This is one of Boston's most unusual food events and should not be missed!)

Brotman has been a pastry chef for approximately five years. A graduate of Brandeis University, she earned a certificate in pastry arts from the Culinary Institute of America. She is assistant to Ursula, the owner of Ursula, the Art of the Cake, in Boston and the pastry chef at Truc, a small restaurant in Boston's South End. (Ursula makes elaborately-decorated wedding cakes ala Sylvia Weinstock.)

"The glorious thing about being a pastry chef is that you work very hard, but see the results at the end of the day. I make individual desserts from scratch at the restaurant — everything from creme brulee to fruit tart to chocolate gateau," she said. "I also bake the bread."

If you have never worked with pastry, Brotman offered some tips:

- Start with a good cookbook.
- "The Pie & Pastry Bible" by Rose Levy Beranbaum is excellent. Take a class or call a pastry chef if you have a question.

- Don't cut corners. Buy the best ingredients you can. For instance, Wild Harvest sells Callebaut Chocolate, which is very good; El Ray Chocolate is also good.
- Don't overwork pie dough. You should see smears of butter in the dough when you're done. However, tart dough should be well mixed so it resembles cookie dough.
- Herbs have become popular in desserts. Brotman makes basil ice cream; a compote of plum fruit with sugar, syrup, and tarragon; and caramel syrup with rosemary. Sometimes she infuses the molten center of a ganache with cinnamon or black pepper. Use savory herbs, but never garlic.
- Pastry is very much a science. Use a good basic recipe, but experiment with the filling. There's a lot of room for creativity.

Brotman will gladly answer your questions about pastry and

desserts. You can find her at www.bostonchefs.com and send an e-mail, or call her weekdays at Truc at (617) 338-8070.

Dining news around town: Café Nina, 102 Summer St., will host a five-course wine dinner Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m. Price: \$75, includes tax and gratuity. Reservations requested. Look for a new menu on Feb. 15. Call 643-1711.

FYI: Boston Cooks begins Jan. 21 at the World Trade Center. For specific details, go to www.bostoncooks.com. Note: The Dine Around Trolley Tour mentioned in last month's column has been canceled.

Anne-Marie Seltzer is a regular *Advocate* contributor. To reach Anne-Marie, send your questions and comments to *The Arlington Advocate*, 9 Meriam St., Lexington, MA 01273. E-mail: amseltzer@yahoo.com

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Auditions for 'Side Show'

Auditions for "Side Show," sponsored by the Arlington Friends of the Drama Playhouse, 22 Academy St., Arlington, are scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 20, 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 22, and 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23 (includes callbacks). Show will

be March 31 to April 16. Wheelchair accessible. Arlington Friends is a nonprofit organization.

Call (781) 646-5922 for more information. Web site: <http://members.aol.com/AFDtheater>

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SPY PONDERERS
(on reverse)

LEARNING

ON CAMPUS

Arlington residents were honored recently for achieving academic honors for the first quarter of the year at Belmont Hill School.

Among the Arlington students who received honors are:

Sean Creehan, son of R. Dennis Creehan and Elizabeth Gross in form VI was recognized for achieving Honors; **J. Taylor Duke**, son of Amy Duke, in form IV was recognized for achieving Honors; **Nicholas Hall**, son of Gary Hall and Jane Hall, in form III was recognized for achieving Honors; **Johnathan Katz**, son of Barry Katz and Virginia Katz, in form V was recognized for achieving High Honors; **Michael O'Donnell**, son of James O'Donnell and Joann O'Donnell, in form V was recognized for achieving Honors; **Matthew O'Grady**, son of Francis O'Grady and Carol O'Grady, in form III was recognized for achieving Honors; and **Michael S. Pillemer**, son of Stephen Pillemer and Helen Rasmussen, in form I was recognized for achieving Honors for the first trimester of the 1999-2000 school year.

Kristen Marie Trapani, a resident of Arlington, participated in the ninth annual Boston University College of Engineering Scholarship Examination Competition, a national test held Sunday, Nov. 14, in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Atlanta. The top six winners of the Competition will receive full-tuition scholarships to Boston University for four years.

Trapani, a senior at Arlington Catholic High School, is one of approximately 1,000 high school students who took the examination. The three-hour exam, given annually, is composed of two multiple-choice sections covering mathematics, chemistry, physics, and biology.

Some 38 young followers of the "Bard of Avon" including **Ariel Bohn** of Arlington Catholic High School will travel to the town of Weston, Saturday, Jan. 22 to participate in the semifinals of the annual Shakespeare Competition for High School students sponsored by the Boston Branch of the English-speaking Union in cooperation with Emerson College.

The students, representing 38 Greater Boston public, private and parochial high schools, will compete from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each participant will recite a Shakespeare

sonnet and perform a monologue from one of his plays. The judges will be: Andrew Borthwick-Leslie of Emerson College's performing arts department; Richard Bradley, English teacher and former headmaster, The Rivers School; Donna Glick, director of education, The Huntington Theatre; and Judith Castle, theater director and stage manager.

Six to nine finalists from the Weston competition will compete in the Boston area finals on Saturday, Feb. 5 at Emerson College in Boston. The winner of that competition will travel free of charge to New York City to participate in the national finals. The national winner will be sent on an all-expense paid study tour of Great Britain.

Each month the 760 cluster teachers at Otis Middle School choose a category, which varies from academic to non-academic accomplishments, to recognize students. Students achieving success from all cluster teachers during that month in a selected category receive a certificate, which is laminated and displayed on a wall in our cluster hallway, allowing students to acknowledge their peers. Surrounding businesses have donated coupons to support these outstanding students, thus building a bridge between school and the community.

December's category was Most Creative. Congratulations to **Samantha Carducci**, **Sarah Manoli**, **Rosemary Puloka**, **Michael Chin**, **Yvette Vasilev**, **Holly McLaughlin**, **Dan Buonaiuto**, **Greg Shapiro**, and **Gaby Saran**. These students received coupons from Papa Gino's and Dunkin' Donuts. We thank these businesses for their continued support.

The category for October was 100% Homework and 100% Effort. We'd like to congratulate **Rosey Puloka** whose name was accidentally omitted from October's list.

Jessica Bell of Arlington, has been named to the honor roll for the fall trimester at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, where she is a member of the Class of 2003.

Honor roll status is awarded to students who have earned a B+ or higher average with no grade below a B.

Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington recently

announced they have added 26 new students to their chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), bringing their total membership to 35. Inducted in the group of Minuteman's new National Honor Society members are Arlington residents **Timothy Millian** and **John O'Leary**.

Arlington residents **Jonathan Katz**, son of Barry and Virginia Katz, and **Paul Kelly**, son of Michael and Eileen Kelly will perform with the highly acclaimed Belmont Hill School B-Flats when they join singers from the Dana Hall School for a concert Sunday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., at the Bardwell Theatre on the Dana Hill campus in Wellesley.

Each school's group will perform individually as well as joining for two selections: a jazz parody of the Passareau madrigal "Il est bel et bon," arranged by Greg Smith and Mozart's "Regina Coeli" K.276.

Eric Dowling of Arlington, class of 2000 at Boston College High School, received Honors for the First Quarter.

Robert C. Hughes Jr., of Arlington received a Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration degree from Western New England College.

The degree was awarded after completing courses of study in October.

Laura J. DeLuca of Arlington received a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement degree from Western New England College. DeLuca is the daughter of Louis and Joan DeLuca of Arlington.

The degree was awarded after completing courses of study in October.

Wheaton College announces the recipients of the January 2000 Davis International Fellows Program, supported by the Shelby Colum Davis Foundation. Recipients are awarded a stipend to support living and travel expenses while participating in an overseas internship in the month of January, volunteer service activity or research under the guidance of a Wheaton faculty sponsor. The six recipients were chosen from among 23 applicants for the January fellow posi-

tions.

Economics major **James Jarret**, '01, of Arlington has been chosen for a Davis International Fellowship for study in Uganda. Jarret will analyze the effects of HIV/AIDS on the rural and urban labor forces of Uganda. Through interviews with employers, doctors, and academics, he plans to link his work in Uganda with a senior project on HIV/AIDS and development economics in Africa. "The interviews that will be most valuable for the study of economics is with employers, which will provide me with data on absenteeism, falling or rising productivity, and labor turnover," explained Jarret. He has done extensive reading and coursework in preparation for his work in Uganda, including self-instruction in Swahili.

Boston University Academy announces the list of honors and high honors for the fall term. **Samuel Oram** and **Gen Izutsu** of Arlington received honors for outstanding academic performance.

Shannon Gardner, a freshman at Curry College in Milton, was named to the dean's list for her academic achievements. A 1999 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School, she is the daughter of Suzan Gardner Welsh and Richard Gardner.

Megan Prado, Class of 2001, daughter of Sharon Prado of Arlington and John Prado of Lexington has been named to the honor roll for the fall term at Phillips Academy in Andover.

Lesley Shahbazian of Arlington, has joined the faculty in the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University. She will be teaching within Johnson & Wales University's International Baking and Pastry Institute.

Shahbazian's expertise is in classical french pastry. She received her bachelor's degree from Bentley College in Waltham and her certificate of pastry and baking from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Prior to joining Johnson & Wales University, Shahbazian was the pastry chef at Cuisine Chez Vous in Somerville, Mass., and previous to that she was the owner, operator and pastry chef at Twigs Pastry Café in Pittsfield, Mass.



Students Timothy Hartounian and Shiraz Casarjian help Jim McGrath connect to the Web.

AHS, Senior Center working together

BY BOB SPRAGUE
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

You have experienced adults at Arlington's Senior Center who would like to improve their Web skills or just learn a bit more about cyberspace.

You have computer-literate Arlington High students, eager to help.

Put those ingredients together, and you have a new program at Arlington High School that mixes old and young in a pleasing stew.

The connection occurs on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Computer Lab near the main office at AHS.

The student "consultants" are members of the SWATT Team. These letters don't intend to be threatening. They stand for Students Willing to Assist Teachers with Technology.

Its adviser, teacher Dennis Mercurio, said core members of the group, which began this fall, helped get the lab "up and running" for the school year.

"These kids have a high level of technical skill," Mercurio said, "and they help in any way possible."

One key way is on Tuesdays, when Arlington Senior Center

members arrive. As gray hair settles among backward caps, senior citizens may use the 12 working PCs in the Computer Lab as they see fit. On a recent Tuesday, Peg DeMeritt of Belmont clicked away by herself, using programs to look on the Web for people she has known. Some socialized.

But others took advantage of the free advice.

Jim McGrath and student Timothy Hartounian were engaged in an animated discussion of some of the finer points about a fax modem.

Thurston Ackerman talked with student Joves Luo about something called Dialback.com.

And for Louise Turner and 10th grader Shiraz Casarjian, talked turned to the iMac, Apple's colorful, low-priced best seller.

That day the connections were working.

Among those 23 SWATT Team members active in this program are Stephan Brooks, Okella Ward, Samina Islam, Jimmy Liang, Armen Casarjian, and Ben Ho.

For more information, contact Turner at the Senior Center (316-3421).

Schools' strategic plan forum

The Arlington Public Schools are involved in a five year Strategic Plan (1997-2001). The Plan was completed in the spring of 1997, and the schools are now a little more than halfway through the implementation phase. The Plan touches every aspect of school operations and it is showing positive change and new developments.

The School Committee voted to have a Strategic Plan Forum on Saturday, March 11. The Forum will be held at the new Brackett School from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Activities of the day will include sharing

our Interim Report and progress made to date as well as charting priorities for the goals that remain. The time-frame for our Plan is 1997-2001. This Forum will provide the opportunity to celebrate what we have accomplished since 1997 and to refocus on the tasks ahead through the year 2001.

All who participated in the Strategic Planning Process in 1996-1997 will be invited to attend the Forum. We continue to welcome broad-based parent, community and staff involvement in the Strategic Plan Process.

Dallin School fundraiser

Come to a family concert for a fun evening out featuring Ball in the House — a professional capella group on Friday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at Dallin Elementary School, 185 Florence Ave.

The concert will also include performances by the Arlington Middle School and High School Jazz bands.

The doors will open at 6:30

p.m. and tickets will be sold at the door (\$8 for adults, \$6 for children). Assure a seat by purchasing your tickets in advance for this limited seating event at the Dallin Elementary School lobby on Jan. 20 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. or call 648-3215 for more information.

Refreshments will be sold and the concert is a fundraiser for the Dallin PTO.

Elementary Chamber Orchestra, Select Chorus perform at State House

BY CARLA DEFORD
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

On Dec. 17 the Chamber Orchestra and the Select Chorus, whose members are all fourth and fifth graders, performed at the Massachusetts State House.

In the audience were Senator Robert Havern and other legislative representatives, as well as parents of the performers, tourists, and State House workers. For the Chamber Orchestra the event was the continuation of a long-standing tradition; for the recently formed Select Chorus, it marked the beginning of a new era that nearly coincided with the new millennium.

The Chamber Orchestra, a string ensemble, has been in existence for about 15 years. Director Debra Thoresen said students audition for the group, and she invites them to join based on her assessment of their "maturity, dedication, and level of musicianship." They need to have not only such basic skills as "good technique and intonation," but also "the ability to listen to each other" because the group plays in four-part harmony: first violin, second violin, viola, and cello. "You have to have a good ear to pay in an ensemble, and that's what we work on," said Thoresen.

The 24 members of the Chamber Orchestra rehearse twice a week: once at 7 a.m. at Brackett School and once after school at the Otis Middle School. That's in



Gina Esile-Sylva, choral director; Senator Robert Havern; Debra Thoresen, orchestra director; Pasquale Tassone, director of performing arts with the members of the Chamber Orchestra and Select Chorus.

addition to their group lesson with Thoresen once a week and their private lesson with another teacher once a week. It makes for a lot of playing, which allows them to advance more rapidly. Thoresen

said, "It's nice to have a select group, to be able to play more difficult music. They enjoy putting in the practice and rehearsal time, and they really enjoy performing."

Thoresen tries to maintain a

balance between the discipline required to master a stringed instrument and the fun of learning. "I know how hard my students work, so I try to give lots of positive reinforcement. I'm

always telling them, 'you should be very proud of yourselves.'"

Gina Esile-Sylva, music teacher of both the Brackett and Bishop schools, founded the Select Chorus this year.

"I always wanted to have a smaller group that I could bring challenging music to," she said.

Forming such a group was made easier by the presence of Bishop fourth and fifth graders at the Brackett School while the Bishop building was being renovated. In her regular music classes, Esile-Sylva said she "noticed several singers within the larger groups who were eager to learn more and were paying attention to detail. I wanted to give them the experience of singing with others who were as interested in singing as they were." She held auditions early in the year, and formed the chorus soon after.

"Of course, the idea of collaborating" with the Chamber Orchestra "was enticing," Esile-Sylva admits. Indeed, in their performance at the State House as well as their winter concert given at the Brackett School on December 22, the Chamber Orchestra accompanied the Select Chorus in "Lo, How a Rose 'Er Blooming," by Michael Praetorius, arranged by

Pasquale Tassone.

Esile-Sylva points out that singing in parts is new to many of these young musicians. They have to be "sensitive to balance, to how their voices blend in sections and in the entire group. Considering that this is their first year as a chorus, they've had a good beginning," says Esile-Sylva; "I look forward to coming semesters."

Thoresen, who schedules the State House performance and makes sure that state representatives are able to attend, notes that she teaches some students for six years: from third through eighth grade. "That makes us like a family," she says. Esile-Sylva anticipates with pleasure having students in the Select Chorus for two consecutive years and observes that the benefits of having a select group extend beyond its members. "Their joy is contagious," so everyone's musicianship tends to improve.

Esile-Sylva and Thoresen, who are friends as well as colleagues, agree that whether performing in the State House or in Arlington, the joy their students find in making music comes from working hard, from mastering a discipline, and from "being part of something greater than yourself."

'They enjoy putting in the practice and rehearsal time, and they really enjoy performing.'

DEBRA THORESEN, DIRECTOR

Heads — and tails — above other artists

Students' work on the new state quarter

BY CHRIS RICHARDS
CORRESPONDENT

Arlington resident Xander Kotsatos of the Rivers School in Weston was honored earlier this month at Faneuil Hall for drawing the sketch which was chosen to go on the "tail" of the new Massachusetts quarter.

"I didn't want to do the Constitution or anything like that. I wanted to do something for the whole state," said Kotsatos on his winning piece.

Remarkably a sixth grader from the St. Bernard's School, Kathleen Raughtigan, drew an identical picture, and the two were hosted by Governor Cellucci and the Lt. Governor Jane Swift along with one hundred other guests.

"It was really exciting. I met the governor, the lieutenant governor, as well as the treasurer of the US Mint. Everyone was there," said Kotsatos.

In a symbolic gesture to unveil the new Massachusetts quarter, Kotsatos, Raughtigan, and the governor enacted a "virtual strike." All three simultaneously pressed a big red button, and — on a large video screen — the new quarter rolled out of the US Mint in Philadelphia.

More than \$1.5 billion worth of the new Massachusetts quarters are being minted, and Kotsatos is grateful knowing his artwork will be spread all over the world. "I

didn't think I would win, but I was really happy when I did. I couldn't believe it," reflected Kotsatos.

The Minutemen and The Sons of the American Revolution also were at the coronation, and for good reason, since Kotsatos drew a minuteman which stands proudly over an outline of the Massachusetts border.

Two years ago, the youngster submitted his sketch in a school-wide competition while attending The Belmont Day School, and his teachers picked his picture to represent their school in the statewide competition. "I knew I was going to do something with the Minuteman, but I didn't know what. In the end it came together well," said Kotsatos.

Massachusetts is minting more new quarters than any other state to date, and they should be in circulation any day now.

The United States Mint is issuing five new state quarters a year, with Massachusetts being the sixth state; the order of their arrival will mirror the order of each state's arrival into the Union.

While Kotsatos certainly has a flair for drawing, his true love is music.

"He's creative in a lot of areas, but his forte is music," said his mother, Heather Parsons. The youngster plays the clarinet and piano in a jazz band, and also has a CD of children's music coming out entitled 'Opporknockiddy.'

SCHOOL LUNCHES

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Week of Jan. 24 Monday

Caesar salad w/chicken, pita bread, fresh melon.

Tuesday

French toast sticks, bacon, potato puffs, juice.

Wednesday

Roast turkey w/gravy, baked potato, corn.

Thursday

American chop suey, French bread, tossed salad.

Friday

Clam strip roll, tater tots, coleslaw, fruit snack.

Deli bar, salad bar, nachos, pizza and calzone, pasta selections, grill works, stir fry and soups also offered daily. Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with all meals.

ELEMENTARY

Monday

Meatball sub, fat free pretzels, raisins; stuffed crust pizza.

Tuesday

Chicken sandwich, potato wedges, sliced orange; tossed salad w/tuna, cheese, yogurt and pita bread.

Wednesday

Roast turkey, gravy, baked potatoes, peas; ham and cheese sandwich, carrot and raisin salad.

Thursday

American chop suey, French roll, Caesar salad; fresh fruit salad, yogurt, cheese, multi-grain roll.

Friday

Cheese omelets, sausage, croissant, juice; chef salad, bread stick, applesauce.

Alternatives: Monday: chicken nuggets w/dipping sauce, rice; Tuesday: cheeseburger, potato puffs; Wednesday: hot dog, rice; Thursday: chicken nuggets w/dipping sauce, rice; Friday: calzone, rice, veggie sticks.

Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with every meal.

Stratton diversity quilt patch due today

All Stratton families face a first deadline for their squares for the diversity quilt: They are due to the school office by today, Thursday, Jan. 20.

Each Stratton family has been asked to contribute a felt square that reflects the family's identity and uniqueness. The artist who is stitching the quilt needs adequate time, so make every effort to meet this deadline.

If you cannot, quilt squares will be accepted until Feb. 11, at the latest.

Questions? Call Annie LaCourt (641-2918) or Ellen Durand (646-9111).

Workshop for cable-TV use today

Students and teachers may want to check out the opportunity offered by MediaOne: Mark Apostolon, MediaOne's access coordinator for Arlington, has scheduled a workshop on field production for 5 p.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 20.

He is the one to contact if interested in involvement in local cable-TV programming. His phone number is 777-1115.

As MediaOne's studio at 85 Park Ave., Arlington Heights, nears completion, there will be workshops on editing and studio production.

Forum on parenting teens Jan. 26

The first of three educational forums for parents of children attending Arlington public schools — this one focusing on teenagers — is scheduled for Jan. 26.

"Parenting Teens — What's Normal, What's Not, When to Worry, When Not," a forum for parents of sixth- through 12th-grade students, is scheduled for 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Arlington High School cafeteria.

Dr. Arnold Kerzner, a child psychologist in Belmont for 28 years, will address topics that include sexuality, depression, alcohol, drugs, and eating disorders.

Information: Cindy Bouvier, Arlington public schools' health education department (316-3570).

The other two forums, part of the Parent Education Forum Series: 1999-2000, are:

• Frameworks Curriculum Panel for Parents and Children, kindergarten through grade 5, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, Brackett School.

Arlington public school educators — teachers, principals and administrators — have been busy aligning curriculum with new state standards. Come and learn how the curriculum is being developed and adapted in eight content areas (English and language arts, mathematics, social science and history, science and technology engineering, the arts, foreign language and health).

The evening format will start with short presentations by department heads followed by a question-and-answer period. Moderated by Joanne Gurry, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

• A math forum, postponed because of snow Jan. 13, has not yet been rescheduled. "Relearning Arithmetic: The Investigations Curriculum for Parents and Children," for parents of children in kindergarten through fifth grade, was to have been held at the Ottoson Middle School cafeteria.

The presenter will be Joanne Fleming, math department and teacher trainer, Arlington public schools. Once rescheduled, the event is expected to include math resource books available for purchase.

'Poetry in Motion' at Brackett Jan. 26

Brackett School students and the public will have the opportunity to attend a unique perform-

ing arts event titled "Poetry in Motion" on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The event features performances by actor/mime David Zucker, who has more than 25 years of experience working with youngsters worldwide. He brings children's poetry to life by combining acting, mime, humor and audience participation.

His performances, which give children a sense of the beauty and drama of poetry, are scheduled for 9 and 10 a.m. in the Brackett School cafeteria. The public is welcome to attend.

Other Brackett news:

• The Brackett School Council invites you to a presentation and discussion of the School Improvement Plan, scheduled for Monday, Jan. 24, 7-9 p.m., in the cafeteria. Residents' input sought.

• The Bartlett School was honored to have Dr. Charles DiCecca, president of the medical staff of Quincy Medical Center and renowned orthopedic surgeon, at its upper school enrichment program.

Dr. DiCecca focused on bone structure, nutrition to support healthy bone development, and modern techniques used in orthopedic surgery. The children were excited when the doctor selected a student and placed a cast on his forearm. They were even more surprised when he started the saw to remove the cast.

The seed of development for future orthopedic specialists was planted in the fertile minds of many fourth, fifth, and sixth graders at the Bartlett School.

Pot-luck, lecture at AHS Jan. 27

Janice E. Jackson, who teaches at the Boston College School of Education, is scheduled to speak at a pot-luck and lecture at Arlington High School on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The pot-luck is set to begin at 7 p.m., with the speaker starting about 8. The specific location is the teachers' lounge, also known as faculty dining room.

The title of the talk is "Knowing Ourselves to Know Others Better."

Ms. Jackson specializes in educational leadership and conflict resolution. Her positions have included deputy superintendent, Boston public schools; and acting assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education. She is a doctoral candidate in Harvard University's urban superintendents program.

The snow date for the event is Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Sponsors are student Vision 2020 group, the International Club, the Peer Mediation center, Metco and the Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group.

Stratton readers net computer funds

The Stratton School staff is pleased with Stratton participation in last summer's Reading for Technology program, because it has resulted in money for new equipment. Alan Brown, the acting principal, has told parents in a newsletter.

Last summer, 96 students read more than 1,545 books. Because of these students and their sponsors' support of the program, Stratton will be buying computer-related equipment for the school valued at \$2,719.

Medals for participating students were to be presented this week.

In Reading for Technology, children keep track of their reading during summer. They get family members to donate a certain amount of money for each book that the children read. "Books" are defined for each grade level.

Stratton plans to buy overhead

projectors, new TVs and VCRs, tape recorders, and assorted software, which is in accordance with the state-required curriculum, known as the "frameworks."

Over the past four or five years, Gail Bodash has been the liaison for this project.

Hardy literary magazine looks back

Calliope, Hardy's literary magazine, has a writing contest open to all third through fifth graders. The focus is non-fiction. Students are asked to reminisce about the 20th century. The issue will be called "A Peek in the Past: Our Memories of the 20th Century." The deadline for entries is Feb. 18.

Other Hardy news:

• Hardy students performed their annual holiday concert, called "Celebration of Winter Concert," Dec. 22. Congratulations were extended to Hardy's new music teacher, Janet Welby Sullivan, who was praised for an outstanding job teaching, organizing, and directing the production.

• Kimberly Fischer has begun as an assistant teacher for the primary learning class.

Peirce Metco night set for Jan. 28

The appearance of a former Metco student and an essay contest highlight plans for the Peirce Family Metco and Pasta Night on Friday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 in the school cafeteria.

Haave Walters, a Peirce School Metco alumni who is attending Salem State College, will speak about his experiences in Arlington. One hundred people are expected to attend.

The night is a second key event this school year aiming to involve Metco families and the Peirce community. Last October, Peirce families traveled to Metco headquarters in Roxbury for a dinner.

The results of a diversity essay contest will be featured at the dinner. Peirce children have been encouraged to write about how having a racially diverse school is important or fun for them. Contest winners will be invited to read their thoughts at pasta night.

Drawings with a diversity theme are also sought and are expected to be on display Jan. 28.

Rob Rice, head of food services for Arlington public schools, is providing the manicotti dinner at cost, and Metco is paying the bill.

Chefs Donna Gaeta and Sharon Malone, Peirce parents and food-service employees, are providing the third essential ingredient — the keys to the Peirce kitchen. Without their volunteer help, we could not hold the event at school.

Peirce parents will contribute homemade desserts.

All this help, has allowed the event coordinators, Laura Forsythe, kindergarten teacher and Peirce Advisory Council member, and parent Kate Cubeta to focus on dropping the "torium" from the cafeteria, so to speak, to create an Italian cafe atmosphere.

Stephen Pereira, Arlington Metco director, will set the mood with Italian music via CDs.

Enthusiasm for the effort began to build in December, when 15 Peirce teachers had already signed up to attend, and eight more RSVPed "maybe."

Marilyn Flaherty, Peirce School Principal, expressed pride in their support: "I have a terrific staff; this response is no surprise."

As a follow-up to the dinner in Roxbury last October, called Metcofest, the Peirce School Advisory Council conceived the pasta night to further involve Metco

families in social occasions. Metco will provide bus service from its headquarters for Boston families. Children in the Metco program will be invited to stay in Arlington with school friends and meet up later with their families at pasta night.

Other Peirce news:

• The Peirce School P.T.O. will hold its monthly bottle and can drive Tuesday, Jan. 25. Please bring returnable plastic bottles and cans to the Peirce School kindergarten entrance on Blossom Street from 8 to 9 a.m. If you can count your cans and bottles, it would be greatly appreciated. Call 641-5446.

Bishop bear sales marks 50th year

In recognition of the 50th anniversary year of the Bishop School, the P.T.O. is sponsoring the sale of a Bishop Bear to mark the occasion.

A plush, soft toy, the Bishop Bear makes a wonderful gift for all current Bishop School students, as well as teachers and alumni.

To order, send a \$10 check (made payable to Bishop School P.T.O.) to Bishop School P.T.O., c/o Stratton School, 180 Mountain Ave., Arlington 02474.

For more information, call 641-5407.

Events at Thompson

• Chess Club will start again, Monday, Jan. 31. It meets every other Monday from 4-5 p.m. and will end March 14.

• The science club began Tuesday, Jan. 11, and runs for six weeks, ending Feb. 17, just before winter vacation. It will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays are for grades K-2; Thursdays are for grades 3-5.

Dallin fund raiser Jan. 21

The Dallin P.T.O. will be sponsoring a special fund raiser Jan. 21 — a concert by an a capella singing group from Maine called Ball In the House.

The group is made up young men who love audience participation and playing for youngsters. Anyone interested in helping organize this event (selling tickets, working on refreshments) should call the school at 641-5413.

Other Dallin news:

• The fifth graders at Dallin school are doing several community projects such as repairing 65 baby outfits that was sent to the ACNR Boston Medical Center Christmas Project for children who's lives are affected by AIDS. The Drucker family of Westwood donated the clothes which were irregulars from their manufacturing company. Each fifth grader repaired one outfit that had a small tear in it.

The clothes are brand new and in perfect condition, aside from the small rips that were repaired.

The Dallin school fifth graders also collected money to give to Globe Santa and the Worcester firefighters fund. Instead of buying holiday gifts for teachers, and teachers buying gifts for each student, the students and teachers donated money to funds that were agreed upon. This year about \$400 was collected and sent half to each fund. Each year the Dallin Fifth graders do this and send the money to organizations that help people who are less fortunate. Last year money was sent to hurricane victims in Nicaragua.

School news

One way to tell the public news about your school is to tell Bob Sprague, communication specialist for Arlington public schools. E-mail school-related items of interest to bsprague@rcn.com or call 641-4490. He can also post items on the town's Web site, at: <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/>. The site will report weather-related Arlington public-school closings.

Volunteer tutors needed

The Eastern Massachusetts Literacy Council (EMLC) needs volunteers to tutor adults who live or work in Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Buxborough, Burlington, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Medford, Somerville, Waltham, Winchester and Woburn. Help is needed to recruit volunteers to serve 160 prospective students on our waiting list.

People interested in learning more about tutoring and volunteer opportunities with EMLC are invited to attend one of our orientation sessions:

Arlington: Robbins Library, Community Room, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Lexington: Cary Memorial Library, Oval Room, Monday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Medford: West Medford Community Center, Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Lexington, Temple Isaiah,

Monday, May 22, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

After the two-hour orientation, volunteer tutors may sign up for 18 hours of training by an EMLC staff member. At the end of the training period, volunteers will be certified and paired with adult learners in their local community. Training will be held throughout the autumn and spring. Tutor and student choose the time and location of tutoring sessions, held about once or twice a week, in a public place such as the local library. Tutors or learners that have disabilities and require special accommodations should contact the EMLC office for assistance.

For registration and directions, call the EMLC office at (781) 862-3706 or visit our website at: <http://members.aol.com/emlc1/emlchome.htm>.

Meet Dr. Ratti Handa

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ratti Handa has joined our practice to provide for Dental Care for Adults



Selecting a dentist to provide for your dental care is an important decision. If you would like to meet Dr. Handa at no charge to discuss your dental needs or concerns, please call our office to set up a "Meet & Greet" appointment. At this visit you will receive a brief dental exam, and be given an opportunity to talk with her. While this visit will not replace a comprehensive dental examination, it is an opportunity for you to meet her to ask questions about our approach to dental care.

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COMMENT



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"
Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

Event highlighted common threads

Anyone who attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance at the First Baptist Church in Arlington Monday, will not soon forget it.

The 12th annual remembrance of King's life and work went longer than expected — two hours — but you probably won't find anyone who will complain.

The night was full of highlights, but most will remember the world premiere of "Pieces of Dreams." The moving piece was the brainchild of Pasquale Tassone, Frank Roberts, and Cheryl Hemenway of the Arlington High School performing arts department.

The Madrigal Singers and Honors Orchestra showed their stuff and it is clear to see why they are touring Italy this year.

Narrator Curtis Minns had the difficult task of reading King's most influential pieces, but he was able to bring across King's spirit while respecting the importance of the night.

Pearl Morrison, mistress of ceremonies for the evening, was a great host — combining humor and seriousness to the evening.

In a time when we hear problems about race relations, Monday was an important night for Arlington. It showed that we can cross racial, ethnic, and party lines to come together.

Guest speaker The Honorable Marjory A. German gave a rousing speech, where she challenged the audience to follow Coretta Scott King's advice to volunteer. German provided a number of examples in the social services area.

There are plenty of problems with the world, which means there are plenty of ways to help.

While we reflect back on Monday evening, the Observance Committee is starting to look forward to next year.

The committee should be commended for Monday's event. There wasn't a time Monday to honor those on the committee who give up so much of their time, but *The Advocate*, but the following people are the main reasons why Monday was a success:

Janice Bakey, chair of the committee; The Rev. William Albright of Park Avenue Congregational Church; Karen Bishop-Williams; Debra Rose Brilati; Jack Cooper of First Baptist Church; The Rev. George Habel of the First Baptist Church; Sherry Hahn of Temple Emunah; Roberta Lasky of Temple Shir Tikvah; C.G. Moehl of First Baptist Church; Pearl Morrison of the Arlington Fair Housing Advisory Committee; Judi Paradis of St. Eulalia's Church; Thelma Parker of the African-American Society of Arlington; The Rev. Ronald Ramsey of St. John's Episcopal Church; Donna Sharff of the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church; and Carol Thrope.

The spirit of Monday evening showed that one person can make a difference. We hope audience members and those who could not attend heed German's words and understand that, "Every one of us can do something... One person can make a difference. A group of people can work a miracle."



Son's peanut allergy changed her life

Last week, I threw away two jars of peanut butter, one package of oatmeal cookies, a pound of chopped nuts, a box of honey nut cheerios, and any random pieces of chocolate I was able to locate in my kitchen cupboard. No, this was not an impulsive act in the wake of post holiday cookie indulging; this was a calculated measure I took to protect my 2-year-old son's life.

You may be familiar with the recent publicity about schools establishing a peanut free zone or environment. There has been notable controversy on the subject. Or like me, perhaps you first learned about peanut allergy from a memo sent home from your children's school. There is a recent increasing of incidents, or at least awareness of allergic reaction to peanuts among children. Although there are many theories regarding the increase of peanut allergy in children, none have been confirmed.

Most scientists agree that the foods adults and children react to are those they eat most often. In Japan, rice allergy is becoming more prevalent and in Scandinavia, codfish allergy is more common. Peanut butter is a common ingredient in American lunchboxes and cafeterias. Peanut butter is an inexpensive source of protein, a comfort food, but is also an allergen and a danger to the children allergic to it.

I have served peanut butter to my children rarely and sparingly. The first few occasions my toddler son had peanut butter on toast, he broke out in an itchy rash. It was hard to deter-

mine if the rash was an allergic reaction or just normal discomfort from a toddler smearing his lunch on his face.

One recent evening, after being served cold Chinese noodles with peanut sauce, my son's eyes swelled shut, his cheeks and neck broke out in hives and he appeared agitated. I knew he was having an allergic reaction and immediately gave him liquid Benadryl, and called my pediatrician.

Luckily, he recovered quickly. With each exposure to peanuts, the reaction for an allergic person will be more severe and life threatening. At a recent doctor's visit, my son's blood was drawn for a RAST (radioallergosorbent) test. The blood test confirmed his allergy to peanuts and dramatically changed how our family lives and functions.

My research on peanut allergy has introduced me to new concepts and terminology. One significant term is "cross contamination." Cross contamination is when food product without peanuts, are manufactured in a plant that makes foods with peanuts, and through contact with contaminated pans, cookie sheets or even air, the product becomes "contaminated" and a threat to allergic people.

I cannot serve my son store-bought cookies, ice cream, chocolate, and some cereals because of the threat of cross contamination. Peanut butter is often a hidden ingredient in foods. Sometimes it is used to thicken spaghetti sauce, chili, or to seal egg rolls. To protect my son, I must review the labels of all store-bought products, read the ingredients in all packaged foods, as well as learn to read

between the lines. Some peanut derivatives like peanut flour are not clearly listed.

Children do not outgrow peanut allergy; it is a life-long threat to them. Allergic reactions range from hives and itching, to anaphylactic shock which is a severe reaction that can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting, and in extreme reactions, cardiac arrest. Researchers are working to identify the protein in the peanut that may cause the reactions, and hope to develop a vaccination in three to five years, but most scientists believe it may take as long as 10-20 years. For the time being, the best way to protect peanut allergic children is by educating the child, family and friends about peanut allergy, avoiding exposure and knowing how to handle reactions.

When I first learned that some schools were banning peanut butter, I thought it was an extreme precaution. At that time, I was not knowledgeable about peanut allergy or aware that peanut exposure can kill anyone allergic to it.

I now know, that peanut butter, as delicious and innocuous as it can be, is also a potentially lethal threat to many families.

My son's allergy has made a big impact on my life. It has enlightened me, and frightened me. Thankfully, life tosses out unannounced curve balls, which, with any luck, heighten our awareness, teach us to cherish the priceless good fortune of healthfulness, a loving family, and provide us with a renewed appreciation of the fragile state of life itself.

Karen Dillon is an Arlington resident and new *Advocate* columnist.

Columnist

KAREN DILLON

Let your voice be heard

The *Arlington Advocate* welcomes letters to the editor.

To be published, letters must include a signature and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both.

Letters should be limited to 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, or to run a sampling of opinion when multiple letters are submitted on the same topic.

Letters must be dropped off at one of the drop boxes — at White Hen Pantry, 94 Summer St., and D'Agostino's Deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

Readers can also fax their letters to (781) 674-7735 or e-mail them to arlington@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

There are many reasons to love Arlington

There are certain things that give you a feeling for a town. It could be the way a policeman waves as you pass through an intersection, or the breeze blowing maple leaves across the town square on an autumn day.

It could be a statement by one of the selectmen that you read in the paper that pleases or infuriates you. Speaking with my husband, reflecting on our few years living in Arlington and our affection for the place, we each remembered several moments, which, for us, defined this town, and the place we want to take in it.

Soon after moving to Arlington, my husband and I noticed a large banner over Arlington High School announcing the annual musical production. Now we had both been active in music and drama in high school ourselves, and decided it would be nice to support the local effort in our new town.

We showed up the first night, and the place was packed. In fact, it was a sold-out show. Sitting in the audience - the next night! - we watched the stellar production. We enjoyed equally the parents, with younger siblings and grandparents in tow, beaming on one side of us, and groups of teenage friends whispering and bonding on the other.

Community events like the East Arlington Street Fair, the Family Day at the Sports Center, the annual Town Day events, and many others sponsored by local clubs and churches are well attended. Our kids enjoyed their first pony rides and balloons here, as kids have through the ages. We grown-ups break our

diets to eat greasy foods and always leave room for pie and ice cream. We listen to each other's children sing, buy pencils to support the local elementary school, or scope out a new dentist or chiropractor.

My husband and I enjoy doing business in Arlington Heights, near our home, and we aren't the only ones.

On a typical Saturday morning or afternoon the Heights is bustling with people running errands and eating out. When I decided to find a local salon to have my hair done, I happened into a salon in the town center. A woman my age styled my hair, and later introduced herself as the salon's owner.

Since then, I have discovered there are many other florists, unique gift and home furnishing shops, and clothing stores in Arlington owned by women. In addition, Arlington is home to many unique, outstanding restaurants. Friends of ours in Lexington and Belmont tell us that they find themselves coming to Arlington for great food finds.

Several of these are ethnic specialties, such as Café Barada, Ole, and the new Punjab. These shops and cafes are frequented by Arlington residents of all ages. Compared to many places I've lived, and compared to neighboring towns, Arlington seems to have more activity and fewer empty storefronts all along Massachusetts Avenue.

I think the thread that ties these experiences together is that we who live in Arlington choose to spend a good deal of our time here. We make time to spend with each other and we enjoy each other's company. Whether we are bringing our kids to the community sing at the library on a Tuesday morning, or

attending a charity ball at the Town Hall at the dawn of a new century, we look within our town to fulfill our needs. Arlington is a place where families and friends support you and cheer you on. Arlington is large enough to contain something for everyone, and we cherish and support each other's uniqueness.

Apalachin, N.Y., my hometown, is really too small to be a town. The main strip has the town library, a hair salon, liquor store, bar, a bershops, and a pizzeria. The same man owned the barbershop and the pizzeria, and he cut all the pizzas with scissors. My best friend lived right next door. Today her brother and his wife live in the same house, next door to my parents. I ate a lot of pizzas from Arnold's, and to this day I cut pizza in my house with scissors. But for nearly everything else, including high school, my family had to look outside of our small town.

The special feeling of our town is one to cherish.

Many of us are newcomers to Arlington, and I hope we choose to share with each other in the town's long tradition. I hope we join clubs, take government, and churches. I hope we town part in the lives of the town's students, whether or not they are our children. I hope we continue to shop for gifts in town, see our doctors in town, and share our meals in town. I hope we choose to respect one another in our differences, and beyond that to learn about and celebrate those differences. I hope we continue to create a town of caring, as such creation must begin with each one of us.

Lisa Glickstein is an Arlington resident and new *Advocate* columnist.

Columnist

LISA GLICKSTEIN

THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

Peanut allergies could be a matter of life and death

As the parents of a young child with a life-threatening food allergy, we feel compelled to respond to Florida writer Allan Appel's guest column of Dec. 16 entitled "Establishing peanut free zones is nuts."

The best rebuttal to Mr. Appel's position is to provide Arlington residents with facts regarding peanut allergies. We know that, armed with accurate information, any decent, caring person would appreciate the seriousness of this issue.

First, however, we must address the tone of Mr. Appel's column. It was striking to us, especially during the holiday season of good will, that someone would write a column filled with such hostility. Why a letter sent home by the Arlington School Department asking families to forego sending

peanut products to school evoked such a response from Mr. Appel we will probably never know.

We saw the letter that was sent home in high school students and were informed by an Arlington school nurse that the letter was met negatively by many families. Perhaps the problem is that people do not like to be dictated to — this we understand. The fact is one of life or death. An evaluation of what is at stake may be appropriate by those who were offended by the town's request.

According to the Prevalence of Food Allergy Study, conducted by Food Allergy Network in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital in 1998, and published last year, 4 million Americans suffer from peanut or tree nut allergy. That is roughly 1.5 percent of the population. The Food Allergy Network, or FAN as it is known, estimates that 125 deaths are attributable per year to food allergies and that peanut allergy is the leading cause of death. These statistics are quite different from those relied upon

by Mr. Appel when he mocks the serious nature of the allergy.

Mr. Appel's questioning of why parents of food allergic children "can't simply act responsibly" demonstrates his lack of knowledge on this subject. Our son had his first allergic reaction the very first time he ate peanut butter. It was an anaphylactic reaction requiring substantial emergency medical intervention. An anaphylactic reaction is marked by a swelling of the throat, closing of the airway and sudden drop in blood pressure resulting in shock. We were told we have a window of four minutes, once an anaphylactic reaction starts, to get emergency treatment before a fatal result occurs. We were lucky we did not lose our boy that first time.

Acting responsibly doesn't even begin to cover it. We read every label of every food we bring into our house or have any place else. We carry epinephrine. We have trained our son to refuse any food offered by anybody unless

we sign off on it. Amazingly, this 4-year-old complies. We avoid parties and restaurants where we cannot exercise some control over the food. We have to tell everybody about our problem wherever we go. We cannot take any chances. We have been lucky.

For some kids all of these measures are not enough. Fortunately, our son doesn't seem to react to the smell of peanuts, some kids do. The density of the smell of crushed peanut shells or the simple touch of a hand-rail previously touched by a hand in contact with peanut butter is enough to send some allergic children into anaphylactic shock.

The only place we, as parents, cannot exercise any control is in the school. That is why the letter was sent home, to ask for the collective help of parents and students in this town. Find us any kid, elementary to high school age who would claim that their desire to eat a PB & J at lunch is more important than the life of one of their peers. Find us any parent

who feels demeaned by helping to keep a neighbor's kid alive.

We have not spoken to a single parent who does not support keeping these food allergic kids safe. Sure it is a pain. But as parents and members of a community, don't we have some responsibility to one another? We have been so lucky to encounter supportive parents. We were sick at the thought of sending our son to school. Fortunately, the staff at his nursery school and the parents of the other students have shown us enormous understanding and compassion. For that we are very grateful. These kind people have dealt with our son's problem in the most effective way. They draw no attention to it and make an accommodation so his life at school is fun and safe.

Peanut-free zones are controversial.

Our allergist, a wonderful man, told us after our son was diagnosed that the problem with peanut free zones is that they lull people into a false sense of securi-

ty. We understand and respect however, the desire of school officials and those whose allergies are even more difficult to control to attempt to make the schools safe. If we sent our kid to school with a contagious disease on the grounds that we have a right, as taxpayers, to send him regardless of how it affects other kids, we are sure we would come under fire. The concept is the same here.

The "normal routine" of schools as we understand it is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where our kids can learn. If that means people have to save their PB & J until after school, so be it. It is a small price to pay for a child's life. Believe us, people can survive this ban. Having a peanut butter sandwich with a glass of milk used to be a great pleasure for us. We haven't eaten the stuff in three years. The safety of our son is well worth it.

Shame on you, Mr. Appel.

Rachel and Michael Prindle are Arlington residents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More reasons for pride

Our family has lived in Arlington since about 1966. There have been many things that have made me proud to be in Arlington — the town manager form of government, the rising quality in the local schools, the sense of community. Two weeks ago, I thought the Millennium Ball in the Town Hall was the best local Y2K event around.

But Arlington hit a new high. I have never been as proud of this town as I am tonight (Monday) after attending the wonderful Martin Luther King Jr. potluck dinner at the First Baptist Church. Judi Bohn and Kate Cremens-Basbas both are richly deserving of the honors they received. I know this from my own teenagers who are the toughest of critics. If you're lucky enough to have kids go through high school at AHS, you'll know who they are.

Marjory German is a town treasure that any community would be proud of and we are lucky she brings her understanding of the broader world back home to share with us, as she did so well tonight.

The Youth Choir of the Twelfth Baptist Church from Roxbury warmed up the crowd in the auditorium after the feast below in the hall. I remember going to this dinner when they would run out of food. That sure doesn't happen now!

If all this weren't enough — those of us in the audience tonight were able to witness the world premier of "Pieces of Dreams" created and led by Pasquale Tassone and performed by AHS Madrigal Singers, the AHS Orchestra, and narrated by AHS senior Curtis Minns. This was an absolutely stunning original musical work that could easily hold its own in Boston's Symphony Hall or even Carnegie Hall. Someday it may be there. But we heard it first in Arlington.

I have only one suggestion for next year. So much of the wonderful stuff that happens in Arlington happens because of the energy and enthusiasm of a couple of women who don't get the nominations for their good service because they are so often behind the scenes on the committees that do the service and make the nominations. I'd like to throw these two names into the hat for consideration — Janice Baky, for her work with the schools and with the MLK dinner and Jane Howard for her work with Vision 2020. They are two more reasons I'm proud of Arlington — and I know there are so many more active, helpful, civic minded residents out there, as well.

Barbara Thornton

More forums needed

Could this possibly be accurate? The Board of Selectmen are offering Arlington residents one

three-hour forum to offer input on a new town manager in THE AFTERNOON. While this is convenient for some residents, it certainly isn't for others.

When the School Committee was in the process of selecting a superintendent, they offered the town residents a variety of forums; some in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some in evening. The process of selecting a Town Manager is as important to town residents as the leadership of our schools.

Both the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the consultant should make sure that meetings are held at times and locations that attract the largest possible input.

Katharine D. Fennelly

Dislikes Real Estate section

I've been a subscriber to *The Arlington Advocate* for several years now. We noticed your recent change to the Real Estate section and are very unhappy with it. We feel it is a very poor decision to group Arlington with Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, Stoneham, and other northern/eastern towns, as opposed to the previous grouping with Lincoln, Lexington, Bedford, etc.

Ourselves and many other people we know looked to Arlington as a gateway community to move out to these other suburbs with a higher proportion of single-family houses. My wife and I moved to Arlington from Somerville and Medford respectively. While some sections of Arlington are similar to Medford and Somerville, the demographics of Arlington are closer to those of the western towns, than the northern ones it is now grouped with.

We find that Arlington houses comparable in size to those in the northern towns are priced differently, and that people who look in the Real Estate section for places to live in Arlington are shopping for different things than those who look to the other communities it is now grouped with. Additionally, we previously checked *The Advocate's* Real Estate sections looking for our potential next home. Due to the recent switch, we now must look to other papers in order to research possible neighborhoods since the places we seek to move to (and other upwardly mobile friends of ours in Arlington as well) are no longer listed in *The Advocate*.

We believe changing the grouping of Arlington with respect to the contents of the Real Estate section was a mistake and hope that you will reconsider this change and restore *The Advocate's* Real Estate section such that Arlington housing is listed with other communities we believe are more comparable, and that other communities whose listings are more representative of the next house aspirations of current Arlington residents will once again appear in *The Advocate*.

Jay Hersh

Looking for help

The season of giving continued Saturday at the "PIT," the home to the Arlington High School wrestling team. Friends and parents responded to a wish list from Coach Kevin Cummings for needed items vital to coaching this four-year-old program and the team of 40 boys who put their reputation and honor on the line each week.

The Repole family donated a television, and the Kelly family a VCR to review matches for skills development. The Konz family sold T-shirts to raise funds to outfit the team. It was a spectacular sight to see the 40 boys carry food donated by the Collins family to open a concession stand run by volunteer parents. In turn, the team provided the day's entertainment with a shut out of Somerville and a win over Everett.

We are all very excited and appreciative of the enthusiasm shown by the parents and fans, sparked by Coach Cummings' outstanding leadership of our new wrestling program.

We hope the wish for an additional wrestling mat and team pullovers can be accomplished through the generous support from the community and local businesses. Those wishing to do so can send checks to "Friends of Arlington Wrestling," c/o Lynette Rainford, 172 Charlton St., Arlington, MA 02476.

Lynette Rainford

More language programs needed

It was great to read about the inclusion of Spanish in the school system at the K-2 level beginning this past school year (*The Arlington Advocate*, Jan. 6). I know that parents are very happy with this program and the idea of further expansion is being discussed. As the parent of a Dallin School third grader my hope is that there can be an expansion that will, at least to some degree, make early language available to children at the upper elementary grades as well.

Last week, after reading your article about the Spanish program, I took some time to find and contact some of the people who have been involved in its development. It was very exciting to talk to people who have such dedication and such an in-depth view of the possibilities that exist to provide language exposure for our kids. Support throughout the town is strong. At least three of our elementary schools already have parents involved in offering supplemental, after school, language programs. These, however, are expensive and not easily available to many who might be interested.

As we continue to support and expand the current elementary foreign language program we might consider the following: setting up language clubs in the schools which could involve native speakers (high school students and parents); and exploring the availability and effectiveness of audio-visual materi-

als as a means of providing initial exposure to foreign languages. (Needham has an in-depth Spanish language program which is based on audio-visual materials which they have developed themselves.) Perhaps we could look at the feasibility of a part-time position for a Foreign Language Coordinator in our school system, someone who could help to pull these kinds of ideas (and more) together.

If you are interested in working on (or just supporting) developing an expanded program for language exposure in our school system please contact the World Languages Committee, which is a grass-roots organization started by Rose Udics. You can contact the committee at c/o 77 Fountain Rd., Arlington, MA 02476 and you will be notified of upcoming meetings.

Kathleen Wolf

Task group wants best teachers

We are perplexed about Mr. Ramsey's interpretation of *The Arlington Advocate* article "Task group: More diversity needed" which is the focus of his letter-to-the editor ("Hire the best teachers," *The Arlington Advocate*, Jan. 6).

In our presentation to the School Committee, we did not call for using race and ethnicity as hiring criteria to replace educational qualifications. No one would support that, including potential candidates. People don't want to be hired for a job because of their race, sex, ethnicity, etc. They want to be hired because of their qualifications. To hire someone solely, or predominantly, on a personal characteristic would be insulting.

We wonder on what Mr. Ramsey bases his belief that minority teachers are unlikely to be the best qualified. Research? Conjecture? Some of the myths that still prevail in our society about minorities?

What we did say was that all of our children would benefit from first-hand contact with educators of diverse backgrounds. We assumed that Arlington should hire and retain the educators who are best-suited to prepare our children, educationally and socially, for the global world of this century.

We also proposed that the hiring of a human resource professional would enable Arlington to hire and retain the best staff, partly through identifying a diverse pool of highly-qualified candidates from which to choose. We assumed everyone understood that Arlington would only consider well-qualified candidates in the first place, regardless of race or other birth attribute.

Mr. Ramsey should be reassured that we are promoting the hiring and retention of the best.

Mary Daniels,
Miriam Stein
Co-Chairs

Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group

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Dental Tips

by Ghada S. Massabni, D.M.D.

AFRAID TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH?

Surveys indicate that 55 to 75 million Americans consider bad breath to be a principal concern in social encounters. And, while many breath odors stem from certain foods, smoking, dieting, and "morning breath," chronic halitosis (the medical term for bad breath) is less common. It can stem from problems involving the teeth, gums, and tongue. For instance, even relatively mild gum disease can be the source of malodorous

breath, as plaque and its hardened form, tartar, create pockets of infection. Heavy bacterial plaques can also form on the back of the tongue to putrefy and generate a variety of sulfur compounds and other odoriferous compounds. Fortunately, these bad-breath culprits can be successfully remedied with professional dental care.

If you're suffering with bad breath, let us know about it. We can discuss all of your options with you and help you decide what is right for your situation. Beautiful and healthy smiles are a team effort. You will be treated by professionals who have the experience and knowledge you can trust. If you're looking for a family dentist at this time, please call (781) 935-2200. Our "personal touch" philosophy is reflected throughout our practice in many ways. We're located at 576 Main Street, Woburn, where we're currently accepting new patients.

P.S. Prescription rinses are backed by substantial scientific evidence that indicates they are successful in treating halitosis.

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OPEN HOUSE DATES:
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'A group of people can work a miracle'

■ KING, FROM PAGE 1

volunteer and listed a number of social organizations, such as City Year, Habitat for Humanity, and children's hospitals. It's easy to find a place to volunteer — just open up the Yellow Pages, she said.

She brought up the case of one woman who years ago promised an entire first-grade class that she would pay for their college tuition. Many wondered how she would pay the tuition on her \$40,000-a-year salary. However, the woman raised funds and got businesses on board.

German said 19 of the 23 first-grade students have since enrolled in college.

"She said she is still trying to get the other four in college," German said.

That theme of one person making a difference was peppered throughout German's speech.

"[Volunteering] is easy to say,

but many people just don't do it," she said.

Regarding the progress made in Civil Rights since King's assassination in 1968, German looked back to the slain leader's own words. Reviewing speeches, she found a piece from March 1968 where King reviewed progress.

Quoting King, German said there are three ways to look at progress: the extreme optimist, the extreme pessimist, and the realist. The optimist would say the movement has come a long way and would expect the problem to be solved soon, the pessimist would argue that there have only been minor strides and that human nature cannot change, but the realist would see both the progress and the continuing struggle.

"We have come a long, long way, but we have a long, long way to go," German said.

The optimist and the pessimist

have one thing in common — both do not help the cause, she said.

"If you are an extreme pessimist or optimist, you will leave here and not do anything," German added.

German also spoke of the problems she sees every day while presiding in juvenile court. According to the judge, if she only sees 20 cases in a day, it is considered a light work day. On most days, 40 to 60 juveniles come before her, she said.

Every day she sees tragic stories: Children abused and abandoned, drug-addicted youngsters whose addiction was passed down by a mother, children with a terminal disease passed down by a father. The cases she might see on an average day range from shoplifting to murder. The judge wondered what makes children commit these crimes.

"There are no bad seeds at birth... I see children dropped off at the court's doorstep and we're asked to fix them," she said.

Many inner city children are in despair and feel they have no future, she said.

One recent case involved a juvenile charged with driving to endanger and driving without a license after he was involved in an accident. When it came time to hear the case, a distraught father appeared before Judge German and informed her that his son had hung himself.

"How desperate do they feel when black youth take their own life instead of dealing with the future?" German wondered.

"The pessimist and optimist would have us do nothing, but the realist would understand that there are many more youths like them," she said.

Entertainment

The Twelfth Baptist Church of Roxbury Youth Choir, led by Jonathan Singleton, sang two pieces, "The Dream Lives On" and "Sweeter," which included a flute solo by Lance Martin. In addition to the flute, the choir was joined by a bass, percussion, and piano.

Meanwhile, the mistress of ceremonies, Pearl Morrison, linked speeches and music together with humor and said King's birthday should not be a "day off, but a day on."

"Over the long weekend, I sit and bask in the memory of Dr. King," she said.

Reflecting on King, she said, "I'm sure [King] would say to us the dream must live on."

With Monday's two-hour event a success, the Observance Committee is not sitting back and waiting for next January. Starting next month, the organization will begin preparing for next year's event.

Those interested in making a contribution can send checks payable to Martin Luther King Birthday Observance Committee, 819 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington 02476.

Two public school officials honored with King award

■ SCHOOLS, FROM PAGE 1

year's Recognition Awards, Cremens-Basbas reminded the audience of the many problems in the country: a racist murder in Texas, Confederate flags in South Carolina, and New Hampshire finally celebrating King's birthday. With that in mind, she said she "counts her blessings to be in Arlington."

"I learned from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the importance of coalition building. You are all a part of the coalition," she told the crowd, adding that she was lucky to have been raised with a social conscience.

Meanwhile, Bonn praised her family, faith, friends, and colleagues, after picking up the other Recognition Award.

"I do believe in the power of one," Bonn said.

Bonn is partnership coordinator of the Arlington Partners in Education and has developed programs for identifying and educating students and adults about discrimination. She has written grants that have provided materials for the faculty and initiated a curriculum resource book, a human resource assessment, world language in the elementary schools, "Facing History and Ourselves" at Otis Middle School, and after-school Spanish. She also runs a professional book group at Otis and the high school with readings highlighting culture, race, religion, and gender.

Mistress of Ceremonies Pearl Morrison said Bonn works so hard that her husband thinks she is "a figment of his imagination."

"If she sees barriers, she just knocks them down," said Morri-

son. The word "defeat" is not in Bonn's vocabulary — just like King, said Morrison.

Last year's winner of the award also spoke of the two honored.

"Both have touched my life in many ways," said Gill.

When Gill experienced problems at AHS, she used to pray for help. Gill believes Bonn and Cremens-Basbas were her angels, who helped her get through difficult times and grow.

"I think God sent these two to Arlington to make changes and take action," Gill said.

Pieces of Dreams

Pasquale Tassone, director of performing and visual arts for the Arlington schools, Cheryl Hemenway, choral director, and Frank Roberts, drama director, presented a world premiere of

their work "Pieces of Dreams," which highlighted King's life and vision.

The Honors Orchestra and The Madrigal Singers performed the work with Tas-

sone conducting and Hemenway on the piano.

While the orchestra played, Curtis Minns narrated some of King's most inspirational speeches, including the "I Have a Dream Speech," "I See the Promised Land," and the "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech."

The trio started work on the piece last summer and researched King's speeches and old spirituals. Tassone penned music to link the speeches with the music.

Many in the audience were visibly moved and the piece received the first standing ovation of the night.



Kate Cremens-Basbas



Judi Bohn

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You may have noticed a very friendly, beautiful female cat hanging around the neighborhood. Perhaps you've fed it. Taken it in, provided blankets/shelter.

Description: Very healthy-looking, nice markings, blackish/orangeish coat with patch of white fur under the chin, yellowish eyes. Extremely friendly and loving.

Rescue action: There has been great concern that this particular cat has been left out every night during the cold, icy weather. It's been sleeping on the porch of 21 Pine St., and has been fed by another neighbor. Although it looks healthy as if it may have an owner, it is distressing to see this cat left out in this weather.

Therefore it has been rescued and will be in the care of a local vet who has agreed to look after it until further notice.

The cat will be spayed/fixated, if it hasn't been already.

If this is your animal or you have any information about possible owners, please notify us immediately. If no owner comes forth, the cat may be adopted (or released) depending on circumstances.

Call Pam Sopas, 15 Pine St., 643-9433, or Dana Linnet, 21 Pine St. 643-1972.

Town Day meetings

The first meetings of Arlington's Town Day Committee will take place at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall annex, 21 Academy St. The meeting is open to any member of public interested in the planning for the next Town Day celebration. For more information, contact the selectman's office, 316-3020.

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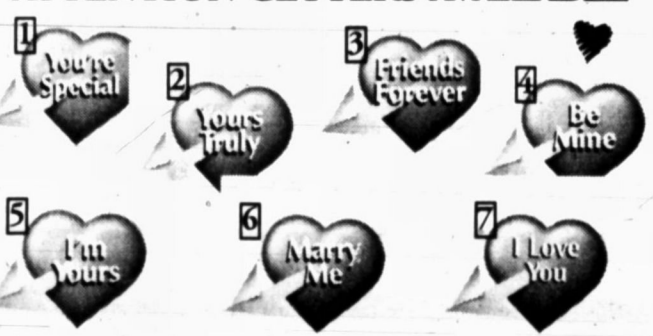
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